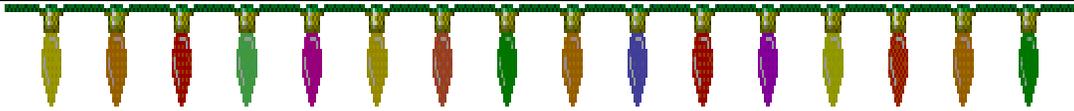


Classroom Chronicle



Merry Christmas!

The Pupils, Parents, Staff and Board of management of Firoda National School wish you all a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year. The pupils are looking forward to the holidays as no doubt are the Teachers so the unfortunate Parents must carry the can for a couple of weeks.



Preparations are at breakneck pace in school getting ready for the Christmas play. This annual event is a major night in the school calendar and the pupils look forward to it with a wonderful sense of excitement and no small

amount of anxiety. It is a night when anything goes and the battle with the nerves is looked back upon with great enjoyment. Each room usually performs their own little play and this year the programme is as follows; Miss Fogarty's room will perform "Ready and Waiting" a story about the birth of Jesus. Mr. Meaghers room will perform "Alas in Blunderland" a comedy play which involves characters from many famous fables. Mr. Fogarty's room will perform their own version of "Hansel and Gretel". This year we also have some Céilí dancing under the guidance of Mr. Frances McDonald who has been calling to the school weekly to give the pupils a few "steps". The play will conclude with a selection of Christmas Carols. Sound for the evening is provided by Mr. Gordon Bradley from Stradbally.

School holidays will commence on Wednesday 23rd. and school re-opens on January 11th. Undoubtedly looking back on 1998 the major event for the pupils was the trip to Winmarleigh Hall in England. They will also remember their 10 weeks of swimming in Carlow pool, their Céilí dancing, school leagues and inter-school hurling competitions. This year also saw the conversion of the stage into a computer room. The school now has a modern multimedia computer in each classroom while the stage houses eleven older models which do a good job in certain areas but which in time will be replaced with more modern machines. The school is also the proud owner of a Data-projector - an expensive item purchased with the new Department of Education I.T. grant. This machine projects the computer screen onto the wall so that a whole class can observe at the same time

Results of November Draw

- 1st. £100 Sean Stone Firoda
- 2nd. £20 John Fogarty Castlecomer
- 3rd. £10 Noreen Dunne Skehana
- 4th. £10 Shan Butler Firoda
- 5th. £10 Peadar Healy Firoda

Bereavements

Sincere sympathy to the families and friends of the following people who died recently:

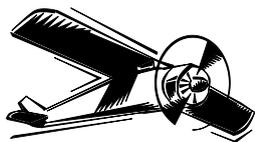
Mary Coady snr. R.I.P. Skehana
 Tim Healy R.I.P. Lowhill
 Patricia O'Neill R.I.P. Ballyhemon
 Michael Dwyer R.I.P. Ballyhemon

Powley Tour



Members of the Powley Vale recently went on tour to the "Culchie Festival" in County Clare. A group of about 35 travelled and a great day was had by all. The trip involved participating in a number of activities including door dancing, tug o' war, yahooing, and a hurling match with a difference. In fact the event was recorded by R.T.E. and some days after a number of locals were observed on television.

Back from Toronto !



A number of weeks ago the school had a few visitors in the persons of Jim Brien and his family. Jim, originally from Skehana and a brother of Jack emigrated to Canada several years ago and settled in to a new life in Toronto. His older brother Mick and younger brother Dan are also in Toronto while other brothers Ber is living in Dublin and Paddy is living in Clare. His sister Breda-lives in Dublin while other sisters Marie - O' Gorman and Catheline-Boran live locally. The "Briens" were all pastpupils of Firoda (the old school)

They were and still are outstanding sportsmen. Playing and following hurling was and is a great passion for them. Ber was one of the outstanding Senior Erin's Own players during the 60's and 70's. Paddy was a legend in his own time while Dan was a player that many reckoned could have gone far (no pun intended) had he not emigrated. All were great cross-country runners and this is where Jim came into his own. In the early sixties when cross-country was strong in 'comer and the "Ring Cup" was a coveted trophy for the mile, Jim Brien was a man to be taken seriously on the track.

The pupils in Firoda were very interested and amazed to discover that in "Jims" day children walked to school. The distance was just a few miles and was shorter through the fields but it today's terms it would be unheard of. The facilities at the school today are very impressive according to Jim.

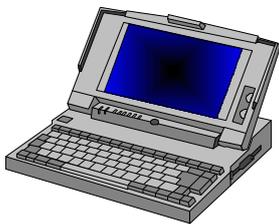
The highlight of the visit for Jim's family was finding his name on one of the old roll books and looking up his classmates. At the



moment the children in school have compiled a database of all the past-pupils. This is saved on file on the computer and hopefully soon it can be put up on the Web page. It is intended to list the past-pupils by year attended and this way people can remind themselves as to who was in school in their time. It might be possible to include the list in a future newsletter. We might also attempt to contact as many past pupils as possible and produce a little documents showing where everyone is at present.

Internet Update

The school Internet Web-site has recently been updated and now carries a nice little article and photographs of Castlecomer and Surrounding areas. The photographs and text come courtesy of Mr. Brian Harrington The Square Castlecomer. Also featured on the site is an article



on the Wellington Race and in the very near future a few pages of photographs of the Wellington race over the years will be featured.

The school is currently getting a few contacts from people abroad who have happened on our site. We are currently corresponding with them and hope to send them a brief local news each week by email. If you have any friend or relative living away who would like to keep in touch, then please put them in contact with the school.

Leagues

Several of the Firoda pupils were on the victorious Chatsworth St. team in the recently completed Parish U-14 hurling street league. The competition was a great Success

